



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

No. 147

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 28, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### ARNOLD PALMER: THE KING OF GOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we lost the greatest golfer ever, the man who brought the sport to the masses, a name synonymous with competition, the king, the legend: Mr. Arnold Palmer.

Arnie was a favorite son and native of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a city where roads, an airport, a drink, a hospital, and so much more are named after

him. Latrobe is also the home of Mr. Rogers, the banana split, and summer home to the Pittsburgh Steelers; but Arnold clearly is their favorite. And with good reason.

Some athletes play to make a name for themselves, but Arnie did it to build up the sport. And build it up he did. He made the sport of golf a game for the common man. It is no wonder he was followed by Arnie's Army through the world.

Some athletes won't give autographs unless you pay them, or they will walk by, unmoved when a child asks for one; but Arnie never refused. He signed his name millions of times, never refusing anyone in his entire lifetime.

I saw him just last month, surrounded by his usual stack of letters, pictures, and paraphernalia piled next to his desk, waiting to be signed by him. He signed every single one with that perfect and unmistakable signature and not with a generic scribble so you have no idea whose name it was. Arnie made sure he made his name legible.

Later in life, he stopped signing golf balls not because he did not want to, but, rather, he thought it was important that whoever he was signing for could read his name clearly.

Some athletes are famous for their family problems, but Arnie was a quiet, dedicated, and loving family man. He loved Winnie and Kit, and their children and grandchildren.

And while some sport players refuse to stand during our national anthem, as a proud veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Arnie would tear up at the sound of the Star-Spangled Banner with admiration, pride, and love for his Nation. He worked hard to get where he was. It was not handed to him.

Once in the spotlight, some celebrities forget their roots, but Arnie never did. He was proud of his humble beginnings. He helped his father, Deacon Palmer, who worked as a

greenskeeper for Latrobe Country Club, by mowing lawns and driving tractors. Arnie was never afraid of getting his hands dirty. In fact, he continued this work all the way up, even selling paint just before he turned pro.

Some feel no sense of loyalty to their team or sport, enamored by their own fame and the big paycheck, but Arnie was fiercely loyal. A contract was a handshake. Your word was a contract based on that handshake, not a piece of paper. His lifetime relationship with his manager was set with that handshake, and Arnie never wavered from it.

Playing golf with Arnie is an unforgettable experience not just as a pro, but for those of us lucky enough to play a round. He made you feel like it was the best part of his day. He never failed to give you his gentle smile or words of encouragement. Even when he teased you in a good-natured way, you cherished every word he said. He made the game fun to play no matter how well or how bad you were playing.

A few years ago, Jim Leland, the legendary manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Detroit Tigers, was playing with Arnie during an all-star break. On what Leland describes as "the greatest day of my life," the two played at Laurel Valley.

After shooting a respectable 41 on the front nine, Jim's game began to fade away on the back nine. Perhaps he hooked or sliced a few, and perhaps he let out a few colorful words in exasperation. But Arnie sensed Jim's game was unraveling and walked over to offer him the best golf advice ever.

I imagine if any of us have had the opportunity to get a golf lesson from the king, we would feel in that moment that the wind would stop, the clouds would part, perhaps a shaft of light would stream down from the sun, the trees might even lean in a little to listen. But in that moment, Arnie put his arm around Jim and said: "Enjoy the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H6005